

WSDOT I-5 Seattle & Shoreline Construction

Edition 22, November 18, 2005

In this issue:

- We need your help: avoid Thanksgiving cross-Cascades travel and tell your family and friends
- Expect significant traffic delays on all Cascades passes during Thanksgiving
- We're making extra efforts to keep travelers safe on Cascades passes; drivers must be prepared
- About this e-mail

We need your help: avoid Thanksgiving cross-Cascades travel and tell your family and friends

On Sunday, November 6 a [rockslide](#) fell onto I-90 near Snoqualmie Pass. Currently only one lane of I-90 in each direction is open to traffic. Despite working dawn to dusk for nearly two weeks, WSDOT and Wilder Construction crews are still struggling to stabilize the rock slope. We're now certain that we won't get all lanes of I-90 open in time for Thanksgiving holiday travelers.

- We know this is a sacrifice, but please avoid cross-Cascades travel during the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Please share this information with your friends and family. Forward this message to them.

Expect significant traffic delays on all Cascades passes during Thanksgiving

From Tuesday, November 22 through Sunday, November 27, [travel across the Cascades](#) on all routes, including Stevens and White passes, will be severely affected. Drivers might experience delays of five hours or more without access to gas stations, bathrooms and other services. These delays will be worse with foul weather or traffic collisions.

Last Thanksgiving weekend there were times when nearly 3,000 vehicles per hour attempted to cross I-90 in one direction. This year, due to the [rockslide](#) on November 6, there is only one lane open in each direction and a 35-mile per hour speed limit in the rockslide repair zone. That means there is now room for only 800 vehicles per hour westbound and 1,000 vehicles per hour eastbound.

Motorists typically stream east for several days before the holidays and then return west in a massive wave on Sunday. Long backups could stretch for miles unless thousands of people change their travel plans. And there's simply not enough room on Stevens and White passes to absorb the excess traffic. That means big delays on all cross-Cascades routes.

We're making extra efforts to keep travelers safe on Cascades passes; drivers must also be prepared

We regret any inconvenience and are doing everything we can to stabilize the Snoqualmie rockslide, reopen all lanes of I-90 and keep drivers safe. WSDOT maintenance crews, Incident Response Teams, and the Washington State Patrol are on duty on the Cascades passes. Despite these efforts, we are not able to prevent long backups and delays unless substantially fewer drivers cross the Cascades during the Thanksgiving holiday week.

If you must travel across the mountain passes:

- [Prepare your vehicle](#). Fill your gas tank, check your tire treads, and be sure your car is in good condition.
- [Have your essentials](#). Carry water, food, blankets, first aid kits, medications, jumper cables, cat litter or sand, a shovel, ice scraper, warm clothes, flashlights and extra batteries. Be ready for snow and ice. Your safety is at stake if you get stuck on the pass.
- [Know before you go](#). Check real-time travel and weather information on our Web site, 5-1-1 telephone information line, highway advisory radio (on AM 1610 and AM 530), and electronic highway message signs.

About This E-mail

Did you receive this e-mail from someone else? Would you like to receive it from us? Simply [send us an e-mail](#) type "subscribe" in subject line.